

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-3 Canceled

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method of configuring an open interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:

receiving a first entity identifier of a first entity by a second entity;

receiving a first account mapping between said first entity and said second entity by said second entity;

storing said first entity identifier and said first account mapping as a first record in a first partner list accessible to said second entity;

receiving a second entity identifier of said second entity by said first entity;

receiving a second account mapping between said second entity and said first entity by said first entity;

storing said second entity identifier and said second account mapping as a second record in a second partner list accessible to said first entity;

receiving one or more mappings between said first entity and said second entity by said second entity, wherein the mappings are selected from the group consisting of an attribute mapping, a site attribute list, an account mapping, and an action mapping;

storing said one or more mappings between said first entity and said second entity as a part of said first record in said first partner list accessible to said second entity;

receiving one or more mappings between said second entity and said first entity by said first entity, wherein the mappings are selected from the group consisting of an

attribute mapping, a site attribute list, an account mapping, and an action mapping; and storing said one or more mappings between said second entity and said first entity as part of said second record in said second partner list accessible to said first entity.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said attribute mapping, said site attribute list, said account mapping, and said action mapping are implemented as a java class.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute between said second entity and said first entity.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said site attribute list defines a list of attribute one or more attributes to be exchanged between said second entity and said first entity.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said action mapping defines a mapping of an authorization of said second entity to an authorization of said first entity.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method of configuring an open interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:

receiving a first entity identifier of a first entity by a second entity;  
receiving a first account mapping between said first entity and said second entity  
by said second entity;  
storing said first entity identifier and said first account mapping as a first record  
in a first partner list accessible to said second entity;  
receiving a second entity identifier of said second entity by said first entity;  
receiving a second account mapping between said second entity and said first  
entity by said first entity;  
storing said second entity identifier and said second account mapping as a second  
record in a second partner list accessible to said first entity;  
receiving a first client certificate of said first entity by said second entity;  
receiving a first network address of said first entity by said second entity;  
storing said first client certificate and said first network address as another part of  
said first record in said first partner list ~~aeeassable~~ accessible to said second entity;  
receiving a second client certificate of said second entity by said first entity;  
receiving a second network address of said second entity by said first entity; and  
storing said second client certificate and said second network address as another  
part of said second record in said second partner list ~~aeeassable~~ accessible to said first  
entity.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an open interoperable  
security ~~assertions~~ assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:  
receiving, by a first entity, a SAML request ~~from a second entity~~, comprising an  
entity identifier, ~~by a first entity~~;

searching a partner list of said first entity for a record containing a matching entity identifier, wherein said record contains an account mapping and an attribute mapping, wherein said account mapping defines a mapping of an account of said second entity to an account of said first entity, and wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute of said second entity to an attribute of said first entity; and processing said SAML request in accordance with said account mapping and said attribute mapping; and sending a SAML assertion in response to said SAML request.

11-13. Canceled

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12 10, wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute namespace of said second entity is to an attribute namespace of said first entity.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

searching a partner list of said first entity for a record containing a matching entity identifier, wherein said record contains an action mapping; and processing said SAML assertion in accordance with said action mapping wherein said record further contains an action mapping, and wherein said SAML request is processed in accordance with said account mapping, said attribute mapping, and said action mapping.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said action mapping defines a mapping of an authorization decision of said second entity to an authorization decision of said first entity.

17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 17 10, further comprising:

~~searching a partner list of said first entity for a record containing a matching entity identifier, wherein said record contains a site attribute list; and;~~  
~~generating said SAML assertion in accordance with said site attribute list~~  
wherein said record further contains a site attribute list, and wherein said method further comprises:  
generating said SAML assertion in accordance with said site attribute list.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said site attribute list defines an attribute that is to be returned by said ~~second~~ first entity to said first ~~second~~ entity.

20-21 Canceled

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to Claim 20, wherein: A system for configuring an open and interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:~~

a first entity comprising:

a first administration module for receiving a first entity identifier of a

second entity and a first account mapping between said second

entity and said first entity; and

a first partner list, accessible by said first administration module, for

storing said first entity identifier and said first account mapping;

and

said second entity comprising:

a second administration module for receiving a second identifier of said

first entity and a second account mapping between said first

entity and said second entity; and

a second partner list, accessible by said second administration module, for

storing said second entity identifier and said second account

mapping; wherein

    said first administration module receives a first attribute mapping between said  
    second entity and said first entity;

    said first partner list stores said first attribute mapping;

    said second administration module receives a second attribute mapping between  
    said first entity and said second entity; and

    said second partner list stores said second attribute mapping.

23. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 22, wherein said  
attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute of said second entity ~~to~~ to said first  
entity.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to Claim 20, wherein:~~ A system for configuring an open and interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:

a first entity comprising:

a first administration module for receiving a first entity identifier of a second entity and a first account mapping between said second entity and said first entity; and

a first partner list, accessible by said first administration module, for storing said first entity identifier and said first account mapping;  
and

said second entity comprising:

a second administration module for receiving a second identifier of said first entity and a second account mapping between said first entity and said second entity; and

a second partner list, accessible by said second administration module, for storing said second entity identifier and said second account mapping; wherein

    said first administration module receives a first site attribute list between said second entity and said first entity;

    said first partner list stores said first site attribute list;

    said second administration module receives a second site attribute list between said first entity and said second entity; and

    said second partner list stores said second site attribute list.

25. (Original) The system according to Claim 24, wherein said site attribute list defines an attribute that is to be returned by said second entity to said first entity.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to Claim 20, wherein:~~ A system for configuring an open and interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:

a first entity comprising:

a first administration module for receiving a first entity identifier of a second entity and a first account mapping between said second entity and said first entity; and

a first partner list, accessible by said first administration module, for storing said first entity identifier and said first account mapping;  
and

said second entity comprising:

a second administration module for receiving a second identifier of said first entity and a second account mapping between said first entity and said second entity; and

a second partner list, accessible by said second administration module, for storing said second entity identifier and said second account mapping; wherein

    said first administration module receives a first action mapping between said second entity and said first entity;

    said first partner list stores said first action mapping;

said second administration module receives a second action mapping between said first entity and said second entity; and  
said second partner list stores said second action mapping.

27. (Original) The system according to Claim 26, wherein said action mapping defines a mapping of an authorization decision of said second entity to an authorization decision of said first entity.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an open and interoperable security assertions assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:  
a first entity comprising:

a first session module for generating and sending a SAML request, said SAML request comprising an entity identifier; and  
~~a first partner list, accessible by said first session module, comprising a first plurality of records each comprising an entity identifier and a corresponding account mapping; and~~

a second entity, communicatively coupled to said first entity, comprising:

a second session module for receiving and processing said SAML request ~~in accordance with an account mapping between said second entity and said first entity~~; and

a second partner list, accessible by said second session module, comprising a ~~second plurality of records each comprising an entity identifier and a corresponding account mapping record that contains a matching entity identifier, said record further~~

containing an account mapping and an attribute mapping,  
wherein said account mapping defines a mapping of an account  
of said second entity to an account of said first entity, and  
wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute  
of said second entity to an attribute of said first entity;  
wherein said second session module searches for said record, processes said  
SAML request in accordance with said account mapping and said attribute mapping, and  
sends a SAML assertion in response to said SAML request.

29-30. Canceled

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 28, wherein said record further contains ~~second partner list further comprises~~ an action mapping between said first entity and said second entity, and wherein said SAML request is further processed according to said action mapping.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 28, wherein said record further contains ~~first partner list further comprises~~ a site attribute list between said first entity and said second entity, and wherein said second session module generates a said SAML assertion in accordance with said site attribute list.

33-41 Canceled

42. (New) A computer readable medium comprising one or more instructions

which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to implement a method comprising:

receiving, by a first entity, a security assertion markup language (SAML) request from a second entity, wherein the SAML request comprises an entity identifier;

searching a partner list for a record containing a matching entity identifier, wherein said record contains an account mapping and an attribute mapping, wherein said account mapping defines a mapping of an account of said second entity to an account of said first entity, and wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute of said second entity to an attribute of said first entity;

processing said SAML request in accordance with said account mapping and said attribute mapping; and

sending a SAML assertion in response to said SAML request.

43. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 42, wherein said record further contains an action mapping, and wherein said SAML request is processed in accordance with said account mapping, said attribute mapping, and said action mapping.

44. (New) The computer readable medium according to Claim 43, wherein said action mapping defines a mapping of an authorization decision of said second entity to an authorization decision of said first entity.

45. (New) The computer readable medium according to Claim 42, wherein said record further contains a site attribute list, and wherein said method implemented by said one or more processors further comprises:

generating said SAML assertion in accordance with said site attribute list.

46. (New) The computer readable medium according to Claim 45, wherein  
said site attribute list defines an attribute that is to be returned by said first entity to said  
second entity.